**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

**(Statewide Session)**

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

 The Senate assembled at 12:00 Noon, the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT.

 A quorum being present, the proceedings were opened with a devotion by the Chaplain as follows:

Psalm 98:1a

 We hear the Psalmist declare: “Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.”

 Bow with me as we pray, please: O glorious Lord, it is inevitable that now and then we might compare the life we happen to lead to that experienced by others around the globe. And of course, as we do so, we can’t help but see how richly blessed all of us truly are here in our Nation and in our State. And although there is still so much to be done here at home, there is likely no other place on our planet where we would really choose to live. Therefore, O God, we pray today that You will bless and guide each of these Senators and their aides as they strive to continue leading us forward toward far more marvelous blessings, working together diligently and faithfully to make life even better for all of our people here in this place we love. In Your holy name we pray, O Lord. Amen.

 The PRESIDENT called for Petitions, Memorials, Presentments of Grand Juries and such like papers.

**Point of Quorum**

 At 12:07 P.M., Senator SETZLER made the point that a quorum was not present. It was ascertained that a quorum was not present.

**Call of the Senate**

 Senator SETZLER moved that a Call of the Senate be made. The following Senators answered the Call:

Adams Alexander Allen

Bennett Cash Corbin

Cromer Davis Fanning

Gambrell Garrett Grooms

Gustafson Harpootlian Hembree

*Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell

Malloy Martin Massey

Peeler Reichenbach Rice

Sabb Scott Senn

Setzler Shealy Stephens

Turner Verdin Williams

Young

 A quorum being present, the Senate resumed.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following appointments were transmitted by the Honorable Henry Dargan McMaster:

**Statewide Appointments**

Initial Appointment, Board of Directors of the South Carolina Public Service Authority, with the term to commence January 1, 2022, and to expire January 1, 2026

2nd Congressional District:

Stacy K. Taylor, 124 Harding St., Chapin, SC 29036-9458 *VICE* Jack Wolf

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Reappointment, South Carolina Board of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, with the term to commence March 15, 2023, and to expire March 15, 2029

7th Congressional District:

Kimberly H. Frederick, 411 6th Avenue North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575

Referred to the Committee on Corrections and Penology.

Reappointment, South Carolina Board of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, with the term to commence March 15, 2023, and to expire March 15, 2029

2nd Congressional District:

Mollie D. Taylor, 2640 Pine Lake Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169-3742

Referred to the Committee on Corrections and Penology.

**Local Appointment**

Reappointment, Marion County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 30, 2022, and to expire April 30, 2026

Kelik Fling, 2715 East Highway 76, Suite B, Mullins, SC 29574-6015

**REGULATION WITHDRAWN AND RESUBMITTED**

 The following was received:

Document No. 5170

Agency: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Chapter: 10

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 40-1-50 and 40-1-70

SUBJECT: Board of Accountancy

Received by President of the Senate January 10, 2023

Referred to Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee

Legislative Review Expiration May 10, 2023

Withdrawn and Resubmitted March 13, 2023

**Doctor of the Day**

 Senator SETZLER introduced Dr. March Seabrook of Lexington, S.C., Doctor of the Day.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator SETZLER, at 12:10 P.M., Senator KIMPSON was granted a leave of absence for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, and Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator TURNER, at 12:10 P.M., Senator TALLEY was granted a leave of absence for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, and Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator GAMBRELL, at 12:10 P.M., Senator GOLDFINCH was granted a leave of absence for today.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator K. JOHNSON, at 12:51 P.M., Senator McELVEEN was granted a leave of absence until 1:25 P.M.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator SHEALY, at 12:51 P.M., Senator CROMER was granted a leave of absence for today.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator FANNING, at 12:51 P.M., Senator McLEOD was granted a leave of absence until 1:20 P.M.

**Leave of Absence**

 On motion of Senator CORBIN, at 5:03 P.M., Senator GAMBRELL was granted a leave of absence for the balance of the day.

**Expression of Personal Interest**

 Senator MASSEY rose for an Expression of Personal Interest.

**CO-SPONSORS ADDED**

The following co-sponsors were added to the respective Bills:

S. 138 Sen. Campsen

S. 142 Sen. Garrett

S. 145 Sen. Stephens

S. 284 Sen. Turner

S. 298 Sen. Turner

S. 330 Sen. Garrett

S. 343 Sen. Sabb

S. 440 Sen. Garrett

S. 521 Sen. Turner

S. 569 Sens. Turner, Sabb, Matthews, Campsen, Setzler and Malloy

S. 583 Sen. Rice

S. 594 Sen. Hutto

S. 634 Sen. M. Johnson

**CO-SPONSORS REMOVED**

 The following co-sponsors were removed from the respective Bills:

S. 440 Sen. Shealy

S. 518 Sen. Gambrell

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

 The following were introduced:

 S. 618 -- Senators Scott, Adams, Alexander, Allen, Bennett, Matthews, Campsen, Cash, Climer, Corbin, Cromer, Davis, Fanning, Gambrell, Garrett, Goldfinch, Grooms, Gustafson, Harpootlian, Hembree, Hutto, Jackson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Kimbrell, Kimpson, Loftis, Malloy, Martin, Massey, McElveen, McLeod, Peeler, Rankin, Reichenbach, Rice, Sabb, Senn, Setzler, Shealy, Stephens, Talley, Turner, Verdin, Williams and Young: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE PASTOR EDDIE W. DAVIS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF LITTLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH AND TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS CONGREGATION AND TO THE BLYTHEWOOD COMMUNITY.

sr-0303km-vc23.docx : 53e4ca1e-9d94-4779-b00a-f7148e8d1313

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 619 -- Senator Cromer: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE NAOMI "RUTH" MYERS ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

sr-0332km-hw23.docx : a349a7c5-572d-4a17-a4f1-70c504ff74b1

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 620 -- Senator Davis: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 12-51-50, RELATING TO SALES OF PROPERTY BY A COUNTY RESULTING FROM DELINQUENT TAXES, SO AS TO ALLOW AN ELECTRONIC SALE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROCEDURES OF AN ELECTRONIC SALE; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 12-51-60, RELATING TO PAYMENT BY THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER IN A TAX SALE, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM AN ELECTRONIC TAX SALE.

sr-0328km23.docx : 9f7b17a7-2b70-4544-8bfb-e52a8d6f3180

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

 S. 621 -- Senators Reichenbach, Stephens, Cromer, Kimbrell, M. Johnson, Fanning and Setzler: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 79 TO TITLE 39 SO AS TO CREATE THE "SOUTH CAROLINA-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION", TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF

THE TRADE COMMISSION, AND TO ESTABLISH THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

lc-0267sa23.docx : 741cf356-58d1-4788-a776-43b0f0092b4d

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.

 S. 622 -- Senators Bennett, Hembree, Massey, Adams, Kimbrell, M. Johnson, Turner and Davis: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 9-1-5 SO AS TO CLOSE THE SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEM; BY ADDING CHAPTER 22 TO TITLE 9 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE "SOUTH CAROLINA SHARED-RISK DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN" TO PROVIDE EMPLOYEES WITH A DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN AND TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE PLAN; BY ADDING CHAPTER 24 TO TITLE 9 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE "SOUTH CAROLINA WEALTHBUILDER-PRIMARY RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN" TO PROVIDE EMPLOYEES WITH A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PLAN AND TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE PLAN; BY AMENDING SECTION 9-1-310, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, SO AS TO ADD A REFERENCE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHARED-RISK DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN; BY AMENDING SECTION 9-1-1340, RELATING TO CERTAIN CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, SO AS TO ADD A REFERENCE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHARED-RISK DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN; BY AMENDING SECTION 9-11-40, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD THE "SOUTH CAROLINA SHARED-RISK DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN" TO THE DEFINITION OF "CORRELATED SYSTEM"; BY AMENDING SECTION 9-16-10, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO ADD THE "SOUTH CAROLINA SHARED-RISK DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN" TO THE DEFINITION OF "RETIREMENT SYSTEM"; BY AMENDING SECTION 9-16-335, RELATING TO THE ASSUMED ANNUAL RATE OF RETURN ON THE INVESTMENTS OF THE SYSTEM, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE ASSUMED ANNUAL RATE OF RETURN ON INVESTMENTS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHARED-RISK DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN MAY NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF SIX PERCENT OR THREE HUNDRED BASIS POINTS ABOVE THE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE OF TWENTY-YEAR TREASURY YIELDS; BY REPEALING CHAPTER 20, TITLE 9, RELATING TO THE STATE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM; AND TO DIRECT THE CODE COMMISSIONER TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES.

sr-0310km23.docx : 2eda7b6b-a846-47f6-8b6d-7c6131900729

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

 S. 623 -- Senator Verdin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44-63-100, RELATING TO THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY MAKE CHANGES TO HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT GENDER CHANGES TO A PERSON'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE MAY ONLY BE TO CHANGE FROM MALE TO FEMALE OR FROM FEMALE TO MALE AND TO PROVIDE FOR AFFIDAVITS THAT MUST ACCOMPANY A PETITION TO MAKE A GENDER CHANGE TO A PERSON'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

sr-0066jg23.docx : 817a10a0-2692-4946-8018-97c8766b9b2d

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

 S. 624 -- Senator Verdin: A JOINT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XVII OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BY ADDING SECTION 16 TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON'S BIOLOGICAL SEX AT BIRTH CONSTITUTES THAT PERSON'S GENDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.

sr-0065jg23.docx : 00e22cab-47d3-47b8-a373-49262128604f

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

 S. 625 -- Senator Gambrell: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ANDERSON COUNTY EMS DIRECTOR STEVE KELLY FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK IN LEADING ANDERSON EMS AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON RECEIVING EMS DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR.

lc-0190dg-gm23.docx : 9ada21e0-8dde-4af6-8f4b-8baa44dce1df

 The Concurrent Resolution was adopted, ordered sent to the House.

 S. 626 -- Senator Gambrell: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ANDERSON COUNTY EMS FOR ITS EXCELLENT WORK TO SAVE LIVES AND RESCUE THOSE IN DISTRESS COUNTYWIDE AND TO CONGRATULATE THE EMS RESPONDERS UPON RECEIVING SYSTEM OF THE YEAR.

lc-0100ha-gm23.docx : 72e85eeb-00c4-43ef-936f-f955f0b91035

 The Concurrent Resolution was adopted, ordered sent to the House.

 S. 627 -- Senators Verdin, Cash, Martin, Climer, Bennett, Campsen, Hembree, Peeler, Loftis, Goldfinch, Cromer, Grooms, Kimbrell, Adams, Young, Gambrell, Gustafson, Talley, Rice, Shealy, Turner, Alexander, Garrett, Corbin, Reichenbach and Massey: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 40-47-300 SO AS TO DEFINE GENDER, SEX, AND OTHER TERMS; BY ADDING SECTION 40-47-310 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE PROVISION OF GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES TO A PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE; BY ADDING SECTION 40-47-320 SO AS TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS; BY ADDING SECTION 40-47-330 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR GENDER TRANSITION PROCEDURES; BY ADDING SECTION 40-47-340 SO AS TO PROVIDE PENALTIES; AND BY ADDING SECTION 59-32-36 SO AS TO PROHIBIT SCHOOL STAFF AND OFFICIALS FROM WITHHOLDING KNOWLEDGE OF A MINOR'S PERCEPTION OF THEIR GENDER FROM THE MINOR'S PARENTS.

sr-0261km23.docx : 8b4caac8-df49-4844-8a50-a7d21fe929f8

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

 S. 628 -- Senator Corbin: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 11 FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TUGALOO AND SMITH ROADS TO THE INTERSECTION WITH SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 14 IN GREENVILLE COUNTY "DEAN STUART CAMPBELL, SQUIRE OF THE DARK CORNER SCENIC MEMORIAL BYWAY" AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS LOCATION CONTAINING THE DESIGNATION.

sr-0323km-vc23.docx : 4cbaeea7-e281-40da-9a15-990243cd2181

 The Concurrent Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

 S. 629 -- Senators Shealy and Setzler: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THAT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM, TO HONOR THE IMPORTANT WORK BEING DONE TO COMBAT CHILD ABUSE,

AND TO DECLARE APRIL 4, 2023, AS "CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

sr-0333km-vc23.docx : 3d82a777-2878-4361-80a2-88ab073ac98a

 The Concurrent Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Family and Veterans' Services.

 S. 630 -- Senator Garrett: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO CONGRATULATE FRANK TAYLOR OF THE NINETY SIX HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM ON A TREMENDOUS SEASON AND TO HONOR HIM FOR WINNING THE 2022-2023 SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE CLASS A/AA INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE IN HIS WEIGHT CLASS.

lc-0218vr-rm23.docx : b2af9ab2-cd5c-41f4-97d5-2d0be1b89cd0

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 631 -- Senator Garrett: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR KIRBY ELIZABETH SELF FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL POISE AND BEAUTY AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON BEING NAMED MISS SOUTH CAROLINA USA 2023.

lc-0275wab-rm23.docx : 2cad0bf4-985d-4a50-baa7-cfc263b0fcd6

 The Senate Resolution was adopted.

 S. 632 -- Senators Matthews and McLeod: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 14, 2023, AS "EQUAL PAY DAY" IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

sr-0331km-vc23.docx : dd29598f-686a-4abf-8c19-237b2976024d

 The Senate Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.

 S. 633 -- Senator Verdin: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE GREENVILLE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION TO USE THE CHAMBER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE AND ANY AVAILABLE COMMITTEE HEARING ROOMS IN THE GRESSETTE BUILDING FOR ITS YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 AND MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023. HOWEVER, THE CHAMBER MAY NOT BE

USED IF THE SENATE IS IN SESSION OR THE CHAMBER IS OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE.

lc-0171hdb-jn23.docx : e2cbdd31-d117-41f6-9920-d564b3e8d9c6

 The Senate Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Operations and Management.

 S. 634 -- Senators Kimbrell, Rice, Climer, Loftis, Corbin, M. Johnson and Peeler: A SENATE RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE DEDICATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT A CORPORATION THAT IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, OR POLITICAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, OR OUTCOMES.

sr-0335km-km23.docx : ddef5af0-4645-4899-b262-d6f3f69f0569

 The Senate Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Finance.

 H. 3014 -- Reps. Gilliard, Henegan, Ott, Collins, Carter, Murphy, Robbins, Brewer, Gatch, Kirby, Anderson, Rivers, Howard, King, McDaniel, Hosey, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Bamberg, Williams, Bernstein, W. Newton, Herbkersman, Hyde, Brittain, Guest, Erickson, Bradley, Hager, Connell, Hewitt, Rutherford, Thigpen, B. Newton, McGinnis, Hardee, Hixon, Taylor, Sandifer, M. M. Smith, Wetmore, Bustos, Landing, Elliott, Pope, Felder, Stavrinakis, Rose, Neese, Davis, Wooten, Bannister, Wheeler, Bailey, Schuessler, Blackwell, W. Jones, Dillard, Bauer, Sessions, T. Moore, J. L. Johnson, Jefferson, B. J. Cox, Garvin, B. L. Cox, Tedder and Alexander: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "CLEMENTA C. PINCKNEY HATE CRIMES ACT"; BY ADDING ARTICLE 22 TO CHAPTER 3, TITLE 16 SO AS TO ENTITLE THE ARTICLE "PENALTY ENHANCEMENTS FOR CERTAIN CRIMES", TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PENALTIES FOR PERSONS WHO COMMIT CERTAIN DELINEATED CRIMES WHEN THE VICTIM WAS INTENTIONALLY SELECTED BASED ON CERTAIN FACTORS, AND TO PROVIDE VICTIMS OF A VIOLATION OF THE ARTICLE MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION FOR DAMAGES SUSTAINED.

lc-0003ahb23.docx : e0eaed1c-510b-4665-a1e1-9d0a68ca6313

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

 H. 3360 -- Reps. Pope, Gilliam, Wooten, McCravy, Felder, Williams, Erickson, Bradley, Mitchell, Forrest, B. Newton and Caskey: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING ARTICLE 17 TO CHAPTER 23, TITLE 23 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY AND TARGETED VIOLENCE WITHIN THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.

lc-0056cm23.docx : cd4400bc-736f-48d6-aeb3-b076089fc9a7

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

 H. 3726 -- Reps. G. M. Smith, West, Ballentine, Davis, Hager, Hewitt, Kirby, Long, B. Newton, Ott, M. M. Smith, Stavrinakis, Tedder, Robbins, Brewer, Murphy, Taylor, Leber, Sandifer, Ligon, Williams, Anderson, Blackwell, Nutt, McCravy, Mitchell, Yow, W. Newton, Weeks, Alexander, Pope, Hixon, Forrest and King: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "STATEWIDE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT" BY ADDING CHAPTER 30 TO TITLE 41 SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE, TO CENTRALIZE OVERSIGHT OF CERTAIN PUBLICLY FUNDED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN THE OFFICE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE, TO TRANSFER THE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL, TO CREATE AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL AND PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE OVERSIGHT OF REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS BY THE DEPARTMENT, TO PROVIDE REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS MUST CONFORM TO CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC CONFIGURATIONS, AND TO PROVIDE A MULTIAGENCY COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO PROMOTE CERTAIN OFFERINGS OF REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS; AND BY REPEALING ARTICLE 13 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 13 RELATING TO OVERSIGHT OF REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND

ARTICLE 15 OF CHAPTER 1, TITLE 13 RELATING TO THE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

lc-0155wab23.docx : 38091ee9-a6ba-47ad-b4ce-35d649926733

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.

 H. 3868 -- Reps. Bauer, Cobb-Hunter, Hixon, Bernstein, Neese, J. L. Johnson, Forrest, Trantham, J. Moore, Pendarvis, Brewer, Murphy, Robbins and King: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 53-3-270 SO AS TO DECLARE THE SECOND SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR IS DESIGNATED AS "WOMEN IN HUNTING AND FISHING AWARENESS DAY".

lc-0197sa23.docx : d908aa50-9f43-4a1b-bc2a-400d14eff3fd

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Fish, Game and Forestry.

 H. 4088 -- Reps. G. M. Smith, Bannister, Hiott, Rutherford, Bernstein, Garvin, Ballentine, McDaniel, Bauer, Howard, J. L. Johnson, Rose, Murphy, Robbins, Gatch, Hart, Thigpen, Erickson, Bradley, Hager, Connell, Herbkersman, Pedalino, Anderson and King: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PURPOSES TO FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRESCRIBE THE APPROPRIATE PURPOSES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS.

lc-0186dg23.docx : af4458e7-7971-42c0-8e2c-0628abf0cf5d

 Read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

 H. 4140 -- Reps. Gilliam, Alexander, Anderson, Atkinson, Bailey, Ballentine, Bamberg, Bannister, Bauer, Beach, Bernstein, Blackwell, Bradley, Brewer, Brittain, Burns, Bustos, Calhoon, Carter, Caskey, Chapman, Chumley, Clyburn, Cobb-Hunter, Collins, Connell, B. J. Cox, B. L. Cox, Crawford, Cromer, Davis, Dillard, Elliott, Erickson, Felder, Forrest, Gagnon, Garvin, Gatch, Gibson, Gilliard, Guest, Guffey, Haddon, Hager, Hardee, Harris, Hart, Hartnett, Hayes, Henderson-Myers, Henegan, Herbkersman, Hewitt, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Howard, Hyde, Jefferson, J. E. Johnson, J. L. Johnson, S. Jones, W. Jones, Jordan, Kilmartin, King, Kirby, Landing, Lawson, Leber, Ligon, Long, Lowe, Magnuson, May, McCabe, McCravy, McDaniel, McGinnis, Mitchell, J. Moore, T. Moore, A. M. Morgan, T. A. Morgan, Moss, Murphy, Neese, B. Newton, W. Newton, Nutt, O'Neal, Oremus, Ott, Pace, Pedalino, Pendarvis, Pope, Rivers, Robbins, Rose, Rutherford, Sandifer, Schuessler, Sessions, G. M. Smith, M. M. Smith, Stavrinakis, Taylor, Tedder, Thayer, Thigpen, Trantham, Vaughan, Weeks, West, Wetmore, Wheeler, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis, Wooten and Yow: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY THE LAST UNITED STATES COMBAT TROOPS LEFT VIETNAM, TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR LUCY CALDWELL FOR HER WORK OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, AND TO REMEMBER THOSE WARRIORS WHOSE LIVES WERE TOUCHED BY HER.

lc-0270sa-gm23.docx : 95c3fc07-b08f-4ebe-ace3-5e00cc319ee9

 The Concurrent Resolution was adopted, ordered returned to the House.

 H. 4141 -- Rep. Taylor: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023 AS "DISTRACTED DRIVER AWARENESS MONTH".

lc-0270cm-gt23.docx : 59072ff4-b968-4155-a044-70f68ac74747

 The Concurrent Resolution was introduced and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

**Appointments Reported**

 Senator HEMBREE from the Committee on Education submitted a favorable report on:

**Statewide Appointments**

Initial Appointment, Governor's School of Agriculture at John de la Howe School Board of Trustees, with the term to commence April 1, 2019, and to expire April 1, 2024

At-Large:

Anne Hancock, 108 Live Oak Court, Greenwood, SC 29649-8960 *VICE* Thomas R. Love

Received as information.

Reappointment, Governor's School of Agriculture at John de la Howe School Board of Trustees, with the term to commence April 1, 2023, and to expire April 1, 2028

At-Large:

Yvonne C. Knight Carter, 1349 Old Cherry Hill Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461-4571

Received as information.

**THE SENATE PROCEEDED TO A CALL OF THE UNCONTESTED LOCAL AND STATEWIDE CALENDAR.**

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 36 -- Senators Hutto, Young, Campsen and Grooms: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING various SECTIONs within chapter 1, title 56, to restructure the ignition interlock devices program. (abbreviated title)

 On motion of Senator MALLOY, the Bill was carried over.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 138 -- Senators McElveen, Senn, Cromer, Loftis, Stephens and Campsen: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑149‑50, RELATING TO GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND RETENTION, SO AS TO PROVIDE A STUDENT WHO BECOMES ELIGIBLE FOR A LIFE SCHOLARSHIP MAY NOT SUBSEQUENTLY BECOME INELIGIBLE FOR RETENTION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP BASED ON A GRADE IN A DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASS.

 On motion of Senator MALLOY, the Bill was carried over.

**READ THE THIRD TIME**

**SENT TO THE HOUSE**

 S. 418 -- Senators Hembree, Turner and Gustafson: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑155‑180, RELATING TO PRE‑SERVICE AND IN‑SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS, SO AS TO UPDATE THE ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS OF READ TO SUCCEED.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Bill.

 Senator MARTIN spoke on the Bill.

 The question being third reading of the Bill.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 38; Nays 0**

**AYES**

Adams Alexander Allen

Bennett Campsen Cash

Climer Corbin Davis

Fanning Gambrell Garrett

Grooms Gustafson Harpootlian

Hembree Jackson *Johnson, Kevin*

*Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell Loftis

Malloy Martin Massey

Matthews Peeler Reichenbach

Rice Sabb Scott

Senn Setzler Shealy

Stephens Turner Verdin

Williams Young

**Total--38**

**NAYS**

**Total--0**

 The Bill was read the third time, passed and ordered sent to the House.

**READ THE THIRD TIME**

**SENT TO THE HOUSE**

The following Bills were read the third time and ordered sent to the House:

 S. 145 -- Senators Shealy, Goldfinch, Hutto, Jackson, Campsen, McLeod, Senn and Stephens: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-15-90, RELATING TO PROSTITUTION, LEWDNESS, ASSIGNATION, AND PROSTITUTION GENERALLY, SO AS TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR SOLICITATION OF PROSTITUTION, ESTABLISHING OR KEEPING A BROTHEL OR HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION, OR CAUSING OR INDUCING ANOTHER TO PARTICIPATE IN PROSTITUTION, TO ESTABLISH THE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE OF BEING A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR SOLICITING, CAUSING, OR INDUCING ANOTHER FOR OR INTO PROSTITUTION IF THE PROSTITUTE HAS A MENTAL DISABILITY; AND BY REPEALING SECTION 16-15-100, RELATING TO PROSTITUTION, FURTHER UNLAWFUL ACTS.

 S. 101 -- Senator Campsen: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 50‑9‑525, RELATING TO LICENSES FOR DISABLED RESIDENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A LIFETIME DISABILITY COMBINATION LICENSE OR A LIFETIME DISABILITY FISHING LICENSE FOR CERTAIN PERSONS.

 S. 207 -- Senator Fanning: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 57-23-1160 SO AS TO CREATE THE PIEDMONT GATEWAY SCENIC BYWAY AND TO IDENTIFY THE THREE SEGMENTS THAT COMPRISE THE BYWAY.

 S. 343 -- Senators Shealy, Jackson, Hutto and Sabb: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑7‑130, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS IN THE STATE CERTIFICATION OF NEED AND HEALTH FACILITY LICENSURE ACT, SO AS TO INCLUDE ALL SHORT‑TERM RESIDENTIAL STABILIZATION AND INTENSIVE CRISIS SERVICES IN THE DEFINITION OF CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT FACILITIES AND TO CHANGE THE AGE OF THE INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN SAME.

 S. 397 -- Senators Shealy, Setzler and Kimbrell: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO REPEAL CHAPTER 75, TITLE 44 RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL; AND BY ADDING ARTICLE 11, CHAPTER 47, TITLE 40, SO AS TO TRANSFER REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS TO THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

 S. 455 -- Senator Verdin: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑29‑230, RELATING TO TESTING REQUIRED WHEN A HEALTH CARE WORKER IS EXPOSED TO BLOODBORNE DISEASE, SO AS TO REPLACE REFERENCES TO PHYSICIAN WITH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, TO INCLUDE DENTISTS IN THE DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND TO ADD HEPATITIS C TO THE LIST OF BLOODBORNE DISEASES.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 165 -- Senators Climer and Allen: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING TITLE 1, CHAPTER 40, RELATING TO BOARD REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS, BY ADDING SECTION 40-1-75, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MAY NOT SOLELY DENY A LICENSE APPLICATION BASED UPON AN APPLICANT’S PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTION UNLESS THE CONVICTION IS FOR A CRIME THAT DIRECTLY RELATES TO THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SPECIFIC OCCUPATION OR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE BEING SOUGHT; BY ADDING SECTION 40-1-77 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE BY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS FOR APPLICANTS WHO COMPLETE CERTAIN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 40-1-140, RELATING TO THE EFFECT OF PRIOR CONVICTIONS ON LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

 On motion of Senator CLIMER, the Bill was carried over.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 314 -- Senator Talley: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-157-10 SO AS TO PROVIDE CHAPTER DEFINITIONS; BY ADDING SECTION 59-157-30 SO AS TO REQUIRE CERTAIN PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS OVER THRESHOLD AMOUNTS FOR HIGHER INSTITUTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW TO THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND JOINT BOND REVIEW COMMITTEE AND THE STATE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL AFTER FULL ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING DESIGN WORK IS COMPLETED BUT PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, TO ALLOW THE CHAIRMAN OF JOINT BOND REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REQUEST A REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ANY OTHER PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; BY ADDING SECTION 59-157-40 SO AS TO EXEMPT CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 2-47-50 AND TO REQUIRE THE GOVERNING BOARDS TO REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, THE JOINT BOND REVIEW COMMITTEE, AND THE STATE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AUTHORITY OF ALL PROJECTS APPROVED; BY ADDING SECTION 59-157-50 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO PROVIDE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS A REPORT OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AND ANY CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT ARE EXEMPT BY OPERATION OF SECTION 59-157-40.

 Senator HEMBREE objected to consideration of the Bill.

**AMENDED, CARRIED OVER**

S. 142 -- Senators Shealy, Gustafson, Goldfinch, Hutto, Jackson, Campsen, McLeod, Setzler and Garrett: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16-3-2010, RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF “SEX TRAFFICKING”, SO AS TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION TO INCLUDE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR AND PROMOTING OR PARTICIPATING IN PROSTITUTION OF A MINOR; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 16-3-2020, RELATING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, PENALTIES, MINOR VICTIMS AND DEFENSES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM MAY RAISE DURESS AND COERCION AS AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE TO NONVIOLENT OFFENSES COMMITTED AS A DIRECT RESULT OR INCIDENT TO THE TRAFFICKING, TO PROVIDE THAT A MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM MAY NOT BE CONVICTED FOR NONVIOLENT OFFENSES COMMITTED AS A DIRECT RESULT OR INCIDENT TO THE TRAFFICKING, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM CANNOT BE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF OR BE THE SUBJECT OF A DELINQUENCY PETITION IF THE MINOR’S CONDUCT WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF OR INCIDENTAL TO OR RELATED TO TRAFFICKING; AND

SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVISIONS IN THIS ACT ARE RETROACTIVE.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Bill.

 Senator CASH proposed the following amendment (SR-142.JG0012S), which was adopted:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 2, by striking Section 16-3-2020(F) and (G) and inserting:

 (F) In a prosecution of a person who is a victim of trafficking in persons, it is an affirmative defense that he was under duress or coerced into committing the offenses for which he is subject to prosecution, if the offenses were committed as a direct result of, or incidental or related to, trafficking. A victim of trafficking in persons convicted of a violation of this article, or prostitution, or any other nonviolent offense may motion the court to vacate the conviction and expunge the record of the conviction for a nonviolent offense committed by a minor as a direct result of trafficking. The court may grant the motion on a finding by a preponderance of the evidence that the person’s participation was a direct result of being a victimbeing a victim of trafficking. An alleged victim of trafficking who files a motion to vacate a conviction and expunge the record pursuant to this subsection must file reasonable notice of the motion with the original prosecuting agency for the underlying offense and reasonable notice must be given or attempted to be given to any victims pursuant to the Victim’s Bill of Rights. For purposes of this subsection, nonviolent offense means all offenses not listed in Section 16-1-60. The affirmative defense may be raised only in cases where the victim was a minor at the time he committed the offense.

 (G) If the victim was a minor under the age of eighteen at the time of the offense, the victim of trafficking in persons may not be prosecuted in court pursuant to or have a delinquency petition filed against him for a violation of this article, a prostitution offense, or for any other nonviolent offense if it is determined after investigation that the victim committed the offense as a direct result of, or incidental or related to, trafficking. For purposes of this subsection, nonviolent offense means all offenses not listed in Section 16-1-60.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator CASH explained the amendment.

 The amendment was adopted.

 On motion of Senator MALLOY, the Bill was carried over.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 330 -- Senators Rankin, Alexander, Verdin and Garrett: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16‑11‑740, RELATING TO MALICIOUS INJURY TO TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE, OR ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEM, SO AS TO ADD TIERED PENALTIES FOR DAMAGE TO A UTILITY SYSTEM.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Bill.

 The Committee on Judiciary proposed the following amendment (SJ-330.BJ0010S):

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 and inserting:

SECTION X. Section 16-11-740 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 16-11-740. (A) For purposes of this section only, “electric utility system” means all plants, facilities, assets, and equipment owned, leased, or operated for the generation, transmission, distribution, or storage of electricity, regardless of generation source, and all natural gas facilities, including natural gas pipeline infrastructure.

 (B)(1) It is unlawful for a person, without the consent of the owner, to wilfully and maliciously:

 (1) (a) destroy, damage, or in any way injure a telegraph, telephone, electric utility system, satellite dish, or cable television system, including poles, cables, wires, fixtures, antennas, amplifiers, or other apparatus, equipment, or appliances;

 (2) (b) obstruct, impede, or impair their services or transmissions; or;

 (3) (c) aid, agree with, employ, or conspire with a person to do or cause to be done any of the acts mentioned in this sectionsubsection.

 (2) A person who violates the provisions of this sectionsubsection is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction,:

 (a) if the amount of the damage or loss is less than ten thousand dollars, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than ten years., or both;

 (b) if the amount of the damage or loss is ten thousand dollars or more but less than twenty-five thousand dollars, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than fifteen years, or both;

 (c) if the amount of the damage or loss is twenty-five thousand dollars or more, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both; or

 (d) if the destruction or damage results in the death or bodily injury of a person, or an imminent danger to the life, health, or safety of a person, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned for not more than twenty-five years, or both.

 (3) Evidence of the amount of damages or loss shall be calculated to include the cost of the repair or replacement of equipment, buildings, or structures damaged, the estimated lost revenue caused by the destructive acts, and any related damages than can reasonably be associated with the interruption of service to affected, dedicated utility customers.

 (C)(1) It is unlawful for a person, without consent of the owner, to wilfully and maliciously by means of or use of a firearm or destructive device as defined by Section 16-23-710, to:

 (a) destroy, damage, or in any way injure:

 (i) an electric utility system; or

 (ii) a gasoline, natural gas, or propane utility system, including poles, cables, wires, pipelines, storage containers, fixtures, or other apparatus, equipment, or appliances; or

 (iii) a telegraph, telephone, satellite dish, or cable television system, including poles, cables, wires, fixtures, antennas, amplifiers, or other apparatus, equipment, or appliances;

 (b) obstruct, impede, or impair their services or transmissions; or

 (c) aid, employ, or conspire with a person to do or cause to be done any of the acts mentioned in subitems (a) and (b).

 (2) A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than twenty-five years and may be fined in the discretion of the court.

 SECTION X. The repeal or amendment by this act of any law, whether temporary or permanent or civil or criminal, does not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide.  After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the effective date of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.

 SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator HUTTO explained the amendment.

 On motion of Senator MALLOY, the Bill was carried over.

**CARRIED OVER**

 S. 445 -- Senator Garrett: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 49, TITLE 44 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES TO APPROVE A CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER A VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR RECOVERY HOUSING; TO REQUIRE THE APPROVED CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO ESTABLISH RECOVERY HOUSING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES BASED UPON NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED QUALITY STANDARDS; AND TO DESIGNATE THE EXISTING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 49 AS ARTICLE 1, ENTITLED “GENERAL PROVISIONS”.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Bill.

 Senator GARRETT proposed the following amendment (SR-445.JG0001S), which was withdrawn:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 44-49-320(3) and inserting:

 (3) “Recovery housing” means recovery residences, recovery homes, sober living homes, work‑rehab homes, three‑quarter houses, and other similar dwellings that provide individuals recovering from alcohol and substance use disorders with a living environment free from alcohol and illicit substance use and centered on peer support and connection to services that promote sustained recovery, including continued sobriety, improved individual health, residential stability, and positive community involvement. Recovery housing does not include treatment facilities as defined in Section 44‑52‑10.

 Amend the bill further, SECTION 1, by striking Section 44-49-330(C)(5) and inserting:

 (5) have safeguards in place to uphold residents’ rights;

 (6) assist residents in finding suitable employment; and

 (7) assist residents who desire to relocate upon completion of the recovery program with relocation assistance services.

 Amend the bill further, SECTION 1, by adding:

 Section 44-49-370. It is unlawful for an owner or operator of recovery housing that is not certified pursuant to this article to advertise or otherwise represent that such recovery housing is certified pursuant to this article. An owner or operator of recovery housing who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator GARRETT explained the amendment.

 The amendment was withdrawn.

 On motion of Senator GARRETT, the Bill was carried over.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED**

**READ THE SECOND TIME**

S. 459 -- Senator Grooms: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 55‑9‑235, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR BY THE DRINK THROUGHOUT THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION SCREENED PORTION OF QUALIFYING SOUTH CAROLINA AIRPORTS.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Bill.

 The Committee on Transportation proposed the following amendment (SR-459.KM0002S), which was adopted:

 Amend the bill, as and if amended, SECTION 1, by striking Section 55-9-235(A) and (B) and inserting:

 (A) During the hours of airport operation, any business establishment or concessionaire operating in the Transportation Security Administration-screened portion of Charleston International Airport, Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Florence Regional Airport, Greenville‑Spartanburg Airport, Hilton Head Island Airport, or Myrtle Beach International Airport may, upon the written approval of the respective airport authority, sell alcoholic liquor by the drink to a person twenty‑one years of age or older for consumption throughout the Transportation Security Administration-screened portion of the establishment’s or concessionaire’s respective airport terminal, provided that the establishment or concessionaire is licensed in South Carolina to sell alcoholic liquor by the drink for on-premise consumption.

 (B) A person twenty‑one years of age or older may purchase and consume alcoholic liquor by the drink throughout the interior of the Transportation Security Administration-screened portion of the respective airport terminal, provided that the purchase is from an approved business establishment or concessionaire licensed in South Carolina to sell alcoholic liquor by the drink for on-premise consumption.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator BENNETT explained the amendment.

 The amendment was adopted.

 The question then being second reading of the Bill, as amended.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 28; Nays 12; Present 1**

**AYES**

Adams Allen Bennett

Climer Davis Fanning

Gambrell Grooms Gustafson

Harpootlian Hembree Hutto

Jackson *Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Michael*

Kimbrell Martin Matthews

McElveen McLeod Reichenbach

Sabb Scott Setzler

Shealy Stephens Turner

Williams

**Total--28**

**NAYS**

Alexander Campsen Cash

Corbin Garrett Loftis

Massey Peeler Rice

Senn Verdin Young

**Total--12**

**PRESENT**

Malloy

**Total--1**

 There being no further amendments, the Bill, as amended, was read the second time, passed and ordered to a third reading.

**OBJECTION**

 H. 3605 -- Reps. G.M. Smith, Sandifer, Carter, Kirby, Oremus, Magnuson, Pace, Long, Elliott, Burns, May, Beach, Forrest, Blackwell, B. Newton, Caskey and Ligon: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑80, RELATING TO INVESTIGATIONS OF LICENSEES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR TO SEND INFORMATION REGARDING AN INVESTIGATION TO THE LICENSEE; BY ADDING SECTION 40‑1‑85 SO AS TO ESTABLISH INFORMAL CONFERENCES; BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑90, RELATING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROCEEDINGS, SO AS TO ALLOW A LICENSEE TO REQUEST CERTIFICATION OF AN INVESTIGATION FROM THE DIRECTOR; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 40‑1‑140, RELATING TO EFFECT OF PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS OF APPLICANTS, SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE DENIAL OF A LICENSE BASED SOLELY OR IN PART ON A PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTION IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

 Senator HARPOOTLIAN objected to consideration of the Bill.

**OBJECTION**

 S. 440 -- Senators Corbin, Talley, Gambrell, Goldfinch, Climer, Loftis, Gustafson, Cromer, Cash, Rice, Adams, Verdin and Garrett: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS SO AS TO ENACT THE “SECOND AMENDMENT PROTECTION ACT”; AND BY ADDING SECTION 25‑1‑80 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNORGANIZED MILITIA.

 Senator SHEALY objected to consideration of the Bill.

**READ THE SECOND TIME**

S. 569 -- Senators Shealy, Alexander, Peeler, Garrett, Gambrell, Kimbrell, Young, M. Johnson, Turner, Sabb, Matthews, Campsen, Setzler and Malloy: A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑36‑320, RELATING TO THE DUTIES OF THE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS RESOURCE COORDINATION CENTER SO AS TO ADD TO THE CENTER’S DUTIES CONCERNING THE STATEWIDE PLAN TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS; BY AMENDING SECTION 44‑36‑330, RELATING TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS RESOURCE COORDINATION CENTER SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL MUST DEVELOP A STATEWIDE PLAN TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATEWIDE PLAN MUST BE UPDATED EVERY FIVE YEARS; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATEWIDE PLAN MUST BE UPDATED IN 2028 AND EVERY FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Bill.

 Senator KIMBRELL explained on the Bill.

 The question then being second reading of the Bill.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 42; Nays 0**

**AYES**

Adams Alexander Allen

Bennett Campsen Cash

Climer Corbin Davis

Fanning Gambrell Garrett

Grooms Gustafson Harpootlian

Hembree Hutto Jackson

*Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell

Loftis Malloy Martin

Massey Matthews McElveen

McLeod Peeler Rankin

Reichenbach Rice Sabb

Scott Senn Setzler

Shealy Stephens Turner

Verdin Williams Young

**Total--42**

**NAYS**

**Total--0**

 The Bill was read the second time, passed and ordered to a third reading.

**OBJECTION**

S. 604 -- Senators Peeler, Alexander, Setzler, Malloy and Scott: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS DISBURSED TO THE STATE IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021, AND TO SPECIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE FUNDS MAY BE EXPENDED.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Resolution.

 Senator GAMBRELL explained the Resolution.

 The question then being second reading of the Resolution.

 Senators CLIMER and MATTHEWS objected to further consideration of the Resolution.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED**

**READ THE SECOND TIME**

H. 3604 -- Reps. Bannister, G.M. Smith and Murphy: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE FUND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND FEDERAL FUNDS DISBURSED TO THE STATE IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021, AND TO SPECIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE FUNDS MAY BE EXPENDED.

 The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Resolution.

 The Committee on Finance proposed the following amendment (SF-3604.CH0025S), which was adopted:

 Amend the Joint Resolution, as and if amended, by striking all and inserting:

A JOINT RESOLUTION

TO appropriate FUNDING FOR CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE AND other PURPOSES TO FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRESCRIBE THE appropriate PURPOSES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONs.

 Whereas, the General Assembly has through prior enactments determined that the construction of certain infrastructure, including in certain circumstances infrastructure constructed for use by private parties, enhances the recruitment of businesses to and the expansion of businesses within the State; that such infrastructure facilitates the operation and growth of businesses in the State, and thereby provides significant and substantial direct and indirect benefits to the State and its residents, including employment and other opportunities; that such benefits outweigh the costs of such infrastructure; that for such reasons it is in the best interest of the State to provide funding that serves a public purpose in fostering economic development and increasing employment in the State; and that the primary beneficiaries of such funding and the construction of such infrastructure are the State of South Carolina and its residents; and

 Whereas, the General Assembly further finds that under certain circumstances it is appropriate for the State to undertake construction of infrastructure and to make other improvements that promote or improve state readiness for further economic development; and

 Whereas, the General Assembly further finds that public confidence may be enhanced by identification of the amounts and purposes for which funding may be made available, for specific projects and for state readiness for further economic development; and

 Whereas, the General Assembly further finds that processes of review, approval, and oversight, are appropriate and warranted for public funds designated for purposes of economic development; and

 Whereas, the General Assembly further finds that sufficient unobligated funds are presently available and the interest of the State will be served by their appropriation for the purposes and subject to the terms and conditions described herein.

 Now, therefore,

 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

 SECTION 1. (A) The sources of revenue appropriated in this joint resolution are: (1) $1,204,834,516 from the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Contingency Reserve Fund as recognized by the Board of Economic Advisors; and (2) $86,248,470 from the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Projected General Fund Surplus as forecast by the Board of Economic Advisors.

 (B) The Department of Commerce is appropriated $1,091,082,986 as set forth in this section to provide funding to Project Connect for the following purposes:

 (1) bridge to support rail spur construction;

 (2) land acquisition;

 (3) required site improvements and mitigation;

 (4) road access and improvements;

 (5) soil stabilization;

 (6) training center;

 (7) water and wastewater infrastructure; and

 (8) any such other purpose as is necessary and recommended by the Department of Commerce for Project Connect. Such other purpose is subject to review and comment by the Joint Bond Review Committee.

 (C) The Department of Commerce is appropriated $200,000,000 to loan the Project Connect sponsor for additional soil stabilization to be paid back in full in a manner prescribed by the sponsor and the Department of Commerce. All payments and interest shall be returned to the general fund of the State upon receipt. This loan is not eligible for forgiveness.

 SECTION 2. Funds appropriated pursuant to SECTION 1 may be carried forward into subsequent fiscal years for the same purpose as originally awarded, committed, or authorized. Earnings and interest on accounts created pursuant to this joint resolution must be credited to the general fund of the State.

 SECTION 3. This joint resolution applies solely to the funds subject to this authorization and has no effect on any provision of permanent law. The expenditure authorizations contained in this joint resolution are supplemental to the expenditure authorizations for receiving entities as contained in Act 239 of 2022, the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, and future expenditure authorizations enacted by the General Assembly. The provisions of this joint resolution terminate on fulfillment of their terms.

 SECTION 4. On a quarterly basis, the Department of Commerce shall send a project status report to the Joint Bond Review Committee until all funds are expended and upon certification by the Secretary of Commerce that all project obligations have been met.

 SECTION 5. The State Treasurer shall disburse the funds pursuant to SECTION 1 from Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Contingency Reserve Fund within five days of the effective date of this joint resolution. The State Treasurer shall further disburse all funds available, up to the amount set forth in SECTION 1 from the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Projected General Fund Surplus within five days of the close of the state’s books for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 by the Comptroller General or by November 1, 2023, whichever occurs first.

 SECTION 6. Any funds remaining after the completion of Project Connect must be remitted to the general fund.

 SECTION 7. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this joint resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the constitutionality or validity of the remaining portions of this joint resolution, the General Assembly hereby declaring that it would have passed this joint resolution, and each and every section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words hereof may be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or otherwise ineffective.

 SECTION 8. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator PEELER explained the amendment.

**Remarks by Senator PEELER**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT and members of the Senate. This Finance Committee amendment deals with the Scout Motors infrastructure incentive package. Senator ALEXANDER, members of the Senate, this is the most transparent economic development project in history. You may want to talk about what is transparency. Senators, what does transparency mean in our talk in Columbia? Let me explain it to you. See the glass windows in those doors and windows there? You can see through them. It's transparent. You can see through those glass windows. When you look through those glass windows in the doors, let me tell you what you see. You see our Secretary of Commerce, Harry Lightsey III, and his Department of Commerce team. They are available here to answer any questions or concerns that Senators may have like they have from the get-go of this project. This incentive package we're talking about is a total cost of $1.291 billion. That's a huge sum. I'll admit it. It's a huge sum. It's also a huge project for this State and especially for the Midlands of this State. Let me tell you what else is huge. Our competition for businesses like this. The states of Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee seem to outbid us time after time after time. But this is one that we have won. We landed it with the hard work of our Department of Commerce and leaders of this Senate and the House of Representatives. $1.291 billion -- the funding source for this money -- it's totally paid in cash. Although we could have borrowed money, we decided to pay cash for it. To me and the members of the committee we feel like this is the most prudent way to be able to fund this.

 Why did we have this cash? In large part because we kept our doors open when many states did not, and thanks to the prudent and wise funding decisions of this Senate and House of Representatives, we have surplus money to be able to pay cash for this project. What's the break down for this $1.291 billion? First, $650 million is for the construction of a new I-77 interchange. It pays for road improvements to mitigate traffic problems for the residents of that area. It pays for the construction of the railroad bridge, water and wastewater infrastructure and mass grading and wetlands mitigation. A $400 million grant for hard assets needed, $16 million to acquire property to connect the class one rail mainline, $25 million to build a training center, publicly owned by Midlands Technical College to train South Carolinians for employment with Scout Motors and a $200 million loan to Scout Motors repayable with interest.

 Now let's talk about what Scout Motors brings to this State. It brings $2 billion in capital out lay. It brings 4,000 jobs. Scout Motors is backed by Volkswagen on all the incentives and loans. Volkswagen in my era-- you think of that little bug with the engine in the back. Let me tell you about Volkswagen, it’s one of the largest companies in the world. They're backing this.

 And last, but not least, clawbacks are in place. Clawbacks -- they’ve been lawyered by two of the best lawyers and in Senate -- Senator RICHARD HARPOOTLIAN and Senator MICHAEL JOHNSON. They have lawyered this thing up. They are among the best -- not just two. They’ve lawyered this about as much as you can lawyer it. This project with Scout Motors has the potential of becoming the BMW of the Midlands. I shared with the Finance Committee about what BMW means to the Upstate. Senator THOMAS ALEXANDER and Senator NIKKI SETZLER, you all remember when Governor Carroll Campbell asked for our help to get BMW into the State of South Carolina? We had critics back then, many, many critics about what it took to bring BMW to South Carolina. Back then, when we brought BMW to Greer, one of the best jobs you could get in Greer was changing flat tires at Verne Smith’s tire company. That was one of the best jobs you could get. But now you try to take BMW from the Upstate? Somebody would get their feelings hurt. Senator THOMAS ALEXANDER, I’m here to speak in favor of the Scout Motors incentive package.

 On motion of Senator SABB, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator PEELER were ordered printed in the Journal.

 Senator SETZLER spoke on the amendment.

**Remarks by Senator SETZLER**

 Mr. PRESIDENT, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, it is an honor that I, as the Chairman of the Economic Development subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee, am asked to speak about this project. There is one word that describes this project -- transformational -- not only to the Midlands of South Carolina but also to the State of South Carolina. This project will transform the Midlands of South Carolina, and it will continue the transformation of South Carolina overall.

 We are now known as an automobile manufacturing mecca across the Southeast. What we have produced speaks to our accomplishments. Think about the vision, the tenacity and the courage you, as individual members of the South Carolina Senate, and your predecessors have to bring these companies to South Carolina. Think about Michelin and BMW in the Upstate; Volvo in the Low Country; and now you will have Scout Motors as backed by Volkswagen in the Midlands.

 You have Michelin, you have Bridgestone in Aiken, you have Continental in Sumter -- all are world-class tire companies. Economic development news from today announced a new tire company locating in Allendale County with more than a thousand jobs. You have Boeing in Charleston. You have fighter jets made in Greenville. You have Amazon -- these are world-class companies that have located in our State that bring prosperity. They bring jobs. They bring economic development. They bring commerce to small businesses of South Carolina. We are now adding another giant to the inventory of companies in South Carolina.

 On motion of Senator SABB, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator SETZLER were ordered printed in the Journal.

 Senator SCOTT spoke on the amendment.

**Remarks by Senator SCOTT**

 Mr. PRESIDENT, members of the Senate, I can't tell you how much this project means to the northeast and Blythewood which is part of Senate District 19. Let me say that we didn't just wake up one day and all the pieces came together. For the last thirty-five years I’ve represented that total community. Let me tell you a little bit about that community which makes all these pieces fall in place. You heard a lot about the K-12 education in which we have an abundance of high schools in that area -- Richland Northeast, Eau Claire, Columbia High, Keenan, Spring Valley, Westwood, Ridgeview, Dutch Fork and others that make up the other locations in Richland County. So, we do have that infrastructure. We need to make sure that the training force is actually there. But outside just the K-12 training force, let me also say we represent several colleges just in District 19 -- Columbia College, Lutheran Seminary, Columbia International, South University -- I'm going to stop at Midlands Tech because Midlands Tech this time is doing something under the leadership of Dr. Ron Rhames that probably never has been done before in the State. This new training facility is not built at Midlands Tech. It's actually built on the Tech site. But you see, there are two other additional technical schools that are going to also be impacted by Scout coming to South Carolina -- that's Orangeburg Regional Tech, led by Dr. Walter Tobin and also Denmark Tech, lead by Dr. Willie Todd.

 How important is this? I have shared with you over and over again the twenty-two counties who have lost population. Our challenge will be how many of those counties that lost population -- also counties in the surrounding areas -- those counties that are going to be affected by this plant. Let me just first back up a little bit. Richland County -- that area has a 2.9% unemployment rate. I share with you lots of times what the income levels were like in that area. Salaries in that area are $50,000 to $200,000 approximately, 21,000 individuals who already have the income this factory will probably allow. Hospitals and services -- you can't grow these companies and organizations without having better health care. Probably the only location with three hospitals -- three of the largest hospitals in that area -- Prisma, Lexington and MUSC. Also, we have Fairfield Electric and Dominion. So, we are highly efficient in terms of meeting those challenges. We also talked about the railway system coming that's going to help us to get the freight out and be able to get it where it needs to be. It's also surrounded by US 21, US 321, I- 77 into I-20, I-26, Hwy 555 and of course Monticello Road -- all these roads lead to somewhere -- let me tell you a little bit about where they lead to. They lead to approximately fifteen counties that sit in the region. I’m talking about the Central Midlands Region. I want to talk about the region itself -- that region which also includes Aiken County, which is about fifty miles away. Barnwell County which has been struggling, which is about sixty-two miles away, Calhoun County is about thirty-one miles away, Chester County is forty-five miles away, Clarendon County is fifty-three miles and Fairfield County is right at the back door which was hit by a major utility closure real hard. Kershaw County is forty miles away, Lancaster County is forty-six miles away, Lee County is forty-three miles away, Lexington County, and you’ve heard a lot from Senator SETZLER, as well Newberry County is thirty-eight miles away. You've heard from Senator HUTTO, which is about thirty-nine miles away. Saluda County is forty-five miles away. Sumter County is forty miles away and Union County is fifty-six miles away. All of these counties will be affected by this plant. And what we're hoping is that we get a lot of people who come into the region but also we're hoping these folks are able to go back into their homes, continue to develop their homes, because this makes a difference in terms of whether or not they continue to create a local tax base and continue to do some of the things that need to get done.

 We have a ton of automobile dealers which will also be affected by the growth of this company coming in from BMW, Jim Hudson, Buick of the Midlands, Toyota, Nissan, Volkswagen and Honda. We have what a major corporation would look for high income, educated community and high income housing. This plant is dropped right in the middle of these middle-income communities, not just one, but several communities. We are looking forward to what this corporation is going to do for the Midlands. We think it's a powerful tool -- it's not a perfect tool -- but we think it's a powerful tool that could help fix a lot of the surrounding counties.

 So, I hope you don't just look at this project as a Midlands project. This is a regional project that expands even beyond the region to help a lot of communities that are in dire straits, especially in terms of losing population. We also are hoping that this company will bring the spin-off of the smaller manufacturing company -- parts companies and others will come -- not necessarily just located in Richland County, but also located in some of these other surrounding counties. As you put that infrastructure together, working in conjunction with the seven HBCUs and what they're doing with the SCIII Institute and making sure that these pieces all come together to help these small surrounding counties.

 On motion of Senator SABB, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator SCOTT were ordered printed in the Journal.

 Senator MARTIN spoke on the amendment.

**Remarks by Senator MARTIN**

 Thank you, Mr. PRESIDENT. Members of the Senate I am here today not to begrudge anybody. First, I want to thank Mark Hendrix with the Department of Commerce who is always available to answer my questions. I may not always like the answer and he may not always like the question, but he does a great job and provides what I need. I also want to thank the Senate Finance staff who always answer my questions and provide the details I need.

 However, I am here today to talk about the constituent input I have received. I heard it mentioned earlier from Senator KIMBRELL who filed a Bill dealing with ESG. Volkswagen is currently the poster child for ESG. They just paid thirty billion dollars to settle the diesel emission fraud scandal and they are now neck-deep in, “corporate responsibility”. A member of VW sustainability council wrote last December that, “Embracing a fundamental shift to clean e-mobilities technology was the best option for both restoring the brand and complying with tightened emission regulations across the world. The best option going forward was for VW to change its position with regulators and NGOS, (non-governmental organizations) in all key markets and become an advocate for ambitious standards that reduce pollution and drive e-mobility, rather than fighting with policy makers and regulators. During the Trump administration, VW put its support behind California’s ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) standards -- despite the legal threats made by the White House. Even more recently, VW took a firm stance against the legal challenges by conservative states in support of President Biden’s greenhouse car policies.” So, if anybody thinks or wonders will VW or Scout exert political influence in South Carolina, the answer is yes. They will exert political influence in South Carolina. They are already doing it.

 My argument lies in these three things: let's talk about the money. Roughly three hundred fifty thousand dollars per job. That is too much, period. The current House budget appropriates $3,915,798,570 in general funds Section 1 for education. That equates to $76,630 for every teacher in South Carolina, Senator FANNING. That number is high, because your Governor likes to include other people when they make the ratios. It appropriates $86,608,761 to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) or $138,796 per SLED employee. It appropriates $162,901,482 to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), $133,307 per DPS employee, and $546,314,013 to the Department of Corrections or $93,450 per employee. So, our law enforcement and correctional officers in this State are not even worth half as much, and our teacher’s not worth one-fourth as much, Senator FANNING, as Volkswagen employees. Now, 1.3 billion dollars will not be spent on critical one-time needs at our existing agencies.

 On January seventeenth, we were told that we would have $1,944,305,019 in non-recurring surplus. Now under this, Volkswagen gets $1.3 billion dollars, or sixty-eight percent of that. So, for those of you watching at home or maybe listening in the audience, $1.3 billion dollars, that is $1,300 million dollars -- is what that number comes out to be. The Department of Corrections asked for one hundred forty-four million dollars. Now, the best they are going to get is forty-six million. The Department of Public Safety asked for thirteen million dollars for school resource officers' equipment, Senator SETZLER. Now, they are only going to get four million. Anybody remember the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) on the news and all their issues we were going to try to fix? DJJ requested $84.5 million in our one-time money. Now, they are only going to get twenty-seven million dollars. State Law Enforcement Division asked for nine million dollars. They are only going to get three million dollars. And this only reflects the finance budget subcommittee that I chair. I have no idea what our schools are losing. I don't know what our local governments are losing. I have no idea how it will affect the expansion of broadband for our rural areas, or the paving of our roads, or the funding of rural hospitals. Seventy thousand dollars is what it takes to run one mile of broadband in a rural area. How much of $1,300 million would I need just to get southern Spartanburg County and Union County broadband? They would probably like to have a little bit of that. I cannot fathom all this money going away when we have so many needs.

 The third thing, and then I will take questions, the third thing is China. China dominates the position in downstream supply chains for all the metal that goes into the batteries. China only mines thirteen percent of the world's lithium, but it controls forty-four percent of the global lithium chemical production. One of my colleagues from Spartanburg currently sponsors a Bill to greatly limit South Carolina land ownership by Chinese firms, and he was recently quoted, “If a targeted tax incentive went before the Senate right now for a company coming from China, I don't think it would pass.” Well, this company is not coming from China, but nearly all of its ability to do business is coming from China. Our Majority Leader currently sponsors a Bill that, “No corporation controlled by a foreign adversary may acquire any interest in real property within the limits of this State.” I understand what this Bill does and defines as "control," but I think we agree that China is going to have a lot of control here. The Financial Times of London recently reports that, “VW relies on the country for at least half of its annual net profits. The precise number is not disclosed. A VW car, or one made by its subsidiaries, is sold in China every 9.5 seconds in 2021. Over the years, VW has come to be ‘viewed as the synonym for German business community’ in that country.” The Financial Times also noted last December, "Lithuania angered Beijing by recognizing a de facto Taiwanese Consulate. Then, German auto suppliers, Continental and Hella, suddenly found products made at their Lithuanian sites were being held up at Chinese ports.” China controls VW and it will end up controlling this plant. That is what I am concerned about. I am concerned about the money that is not going to our agencies. Some people will say, well, it is going to bring "x" number of billion dollars if all these jobs come, and that may be true, and I hope it is true. The problem is, regardless of whether this comes or another one comes, and I wish it to be successful if it does come, but our agencies, our corrections, and our law enforcement desperately need this money. I do not want to see it given away because it is currently in our bank account when we can be using it for them. I will yield for questions now, Mr. PRESIDENT.

 On motion of Senator FANNING, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator MARTIN were ordered printed in the Journal.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator SETZLER, with unanimous consent, Senators SETZLER, WILLIAMS, CORBIN, SHEALY and GAMBRELL were granted leave to attend a subcommittee meeting and were granted leave to vote from the balcony.

 Senator HARPOOTLIAN spoke on the amendment.

**Remarks by Senator HARPOOTLIAN**

A few years ago, I developed a reputation of questioning and opposing certain big projects that were developed by the Department of Commerce. You all remember the word "Panthers," I suppose. Since then, I have sued the Department of Commerce on their application -- how they applied the Freedom of Information Act information and litigated that for a year or so. It was on appeal when Secretary Lightsey took over, and he and I resolved that case by them being more transparent. He has furnished literally thousands of pages of past deals for me to look at for the specific cost benefit analysis. And I have got to tell you, these are deals before the Lightsey administration, and many of them raise huge questions. So, when this deal was initially announced, I had some skepticism and immediately asked Secretary Lightsey for a meeting to review my primary concern, the claw-back provision. Senator MICHAEL JOHNSON and I were granted a meeting. Secretary Lightsey brought his staff and lawyers, and we reviewed that claw-back provision. And I can tell you as someone who was a skeptic, as someone who was opposed to other economic development projects, that this claw-back provision is the belt and suspenders -- a billion dollars we get back if they abandon this project, and we end up with a site. Most of this money is going into the development of a site and we get the site, too. Volkswagen AG has guaranteed, if they own less than 50%, they have to come up with somebody else to guarantee the project. Senator JOHNSON and I reviewed it in great detail and again, we believe it could not be any better.

I want to thank and give credit to Senator PEELER for driving a hard bargain. My understanding is this is not where you started, this is where you ended up. A number of folks that participated in that from this Body were on Senate Finance. The PRESIDENT of the Senate also participated. I also want to commend -- and I never thought I would say this -- Governor McMaster for his involvement in this process. Of course, Harry Lightsey has gone out of his way to make the details available to anybody that could impact that decision. In terms of the scope of it -- I am from Richland County -- our number one industry in Richland County is government. That is the biggest employer we have; state, local, federal, fort, and that is not diversified enough. This would be the first major manufacturing plant we have had in this area ever. So, Chairman PEELER, I want to thank you on behalf of the people of Richland County and those who worked with you to make this a great deal. I believe it's going to be transformative. I am voting for it. It is not anything like what we have seen in the past. This administration and Secretary Lightsey have done a tremendous job of getting you the tools to get that done. So, I encourage all of you to vote for this. I mean, some of you have philosophical problems with picking winners and losers, but I tell you who is going to be the winner on this -- South Carolina, Richland County and the Midlands.

 On motion of Senator SABB, with unanimous consent, the remarks of Senator HARPOOTLIAN were ordered printed in the Journal.

 Senator CASH spoke on the amendment.

 Senator MALLOY spoke on the amendment.

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator DAVIS, with unanimous consent, Senators DAVIS, SCOTT, CORBIN, K. JOHNSON and TURNER were granted leave to attend a subcommittee meeting and were granted leave to vote from the balcony.

 Senator K. JOHNSON spoke on the amendment.

 The amendment was adopted.

**Statement by Senator REICHENBACH**

 As the owner of a Volkswagen franchise, Project Connect creates the possibility of a conflict of interest therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I abstained from voting on H. 3604.

 Senator MASSEY proposed the following amendment (SR-3604.KM0026S), which was tabled:

 Amend the joint resolution, as and if amended, by adding an appropriately numbered SECTION to read:

SECTION X. The Department of Commerce and the Project Connect sponsor have agreed that the sponsor will meet certain employment thresholds. Of the employees employed by the Project Connect sponsor at its facility in this State pursuant to their agreement with the Department of Commerce, eighty percent must have been residents of South Carolina for at least three years prior to the date the employee is hired.

 Renumber sections to conform.

 Amend title to conform.

 Senator MASSEY explained the amendment.

 Senator PEELER moved to lay the amendment on the table.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 29; Nays 10; Abstain 1**

**AYES**

Adams Alexander Allen

Bennett Climer Davis

Gustafson Harpootlian Hembree

Hutto Jackson *Johnson, Kevin*

*Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell Malloy

Matthews McElveen McLeod

Peeler Rankin Sabb

Scott Senn Setzler

Shealy Stephens Turner

Williams Young

**Total--29**

**NAYS**

Campsen Cash Corbin

Garrett Grooms Loftis

Martin Massey Rice

Verdin

**Total--10**

**ABSTAIN**

Reichenbach

**Total--1**

 The amendment was laid on the table.

**Statement by Senator REICHENBACH**

 As the owner of a Volkswagen franchise, Project Connect creates the possibility of a conflict of interest therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I abstained from voting on H. 3604.

 The question then being second reading of the Resolution, as amended.

 The "ayes" and "nays" were demanded and taken, resulting as follows:

**Ayes 36; Nays 4; Abstain 1**

**AYES**

Adams Alexander Allen

Bennett Campsen Climer

Davis Fanning Garrett

Grooms Gustafson Harpootlian

Hembree Hutto Jackson

*Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Michael* Kimbrell

Loftis Malloy Massey

Matthews McElveen McLeod

Peeler Rankin Rice

Sabb Scott Senn

Setzler Shealy Stephens

Turner Williams Young

**Total--36**

**NAYS**

Cash Corbin Martin

Verdin

**Total--4**

**ABSTAIN**

Reichenbach

**Total--1**

 There being no further amendments, the Resolution, as amended, was read the second time, passed and ordered to a third reading.

**Statement by Senator REICHENBACH**

 As the owner of a Volkswagen franchise, Project Connect creates the possibility of a conflict of interest therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I abstained from voting on H. 3604.

**H. 3604 -- Ordered to a Third Reading**

 On motion of Senator PEELER, H. 3604 was ordered to receive a third reading on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

**Motion to Ratify Adopted**

 At 5:22 P.M., Senator MASSEY asked unanimous consent to make a motion to invite the House of Representatives to attend the Senate Chamber for the purpose of ratifying Acts at a mutually convenient time.

 There was no objection and a message was sent to the House accordingly.

**Motion Adopted**

On motion of Senator MASSEY, with unanimous consent, the Senate agreed that, when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned to meet at 10:00 A.M. tomorrow.

**LOCAL APPOINTMENT**

**Confirmation**

Having received a favorable report from the Senate, the following appointment was confirmed in open session:

Reappointment, Marion County Magistrate, with the term to commence April 30, 2022, and to expire April 30, 2026

Kelik Fling, 2715 East Highway 76, Suite B, Mullins, SC 29574-6015

**Motion Adopted**

 On motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate agreed to stand adjourned.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

 On motion of Senator ALEXANDER, with unanimous consent, the Senate stood adjourned out of respect to the memory of Dr. Alphonzo Delaney “Al” Gaines, Sr. of Seneca, S.C. Dr. Gaines was the first African American principal in Oconee County following desegregation at Seneca Junior High School. He was also the first African American elected to the Seneca City Council where he faithfully served for twenty-eight years. Dr. Gaines was a dedicated educator and devoted community member who cared deeply about the citizens of Seneca. Dr. Gaines was a loving father and devoted grandfather who will be dearly missed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

 At 5:22 P.M., on motion of Senator MASSEY, the Senate adjourned to meet tomorrow at 10:00 A.M.

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